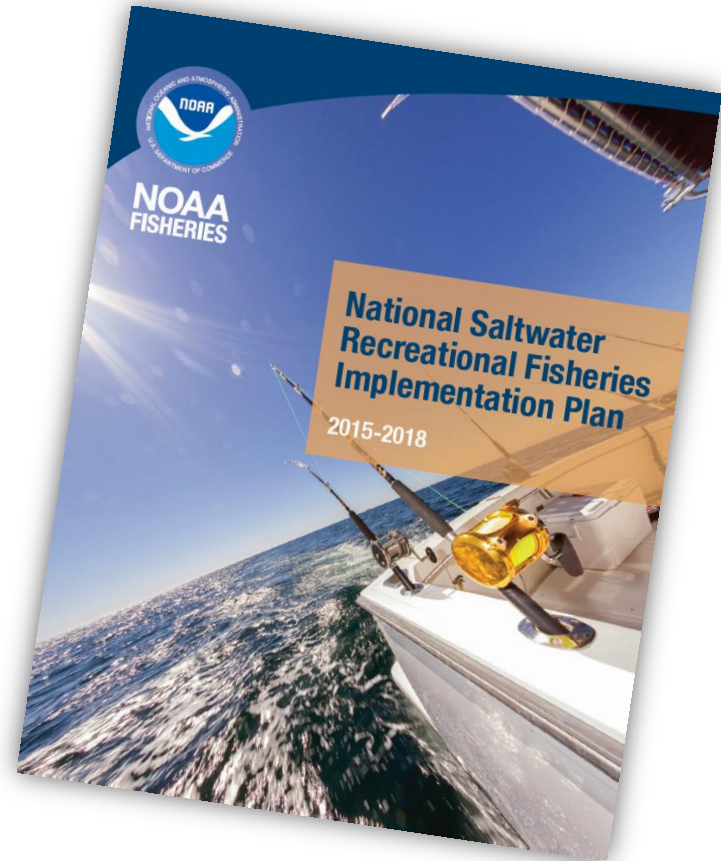
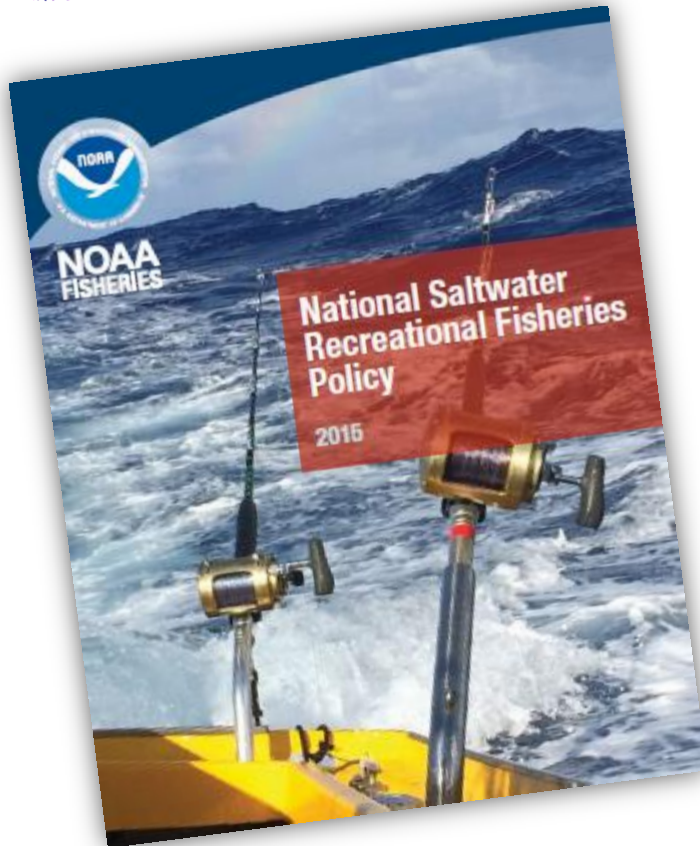


WAYPOINTS: National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy and Implementation Plan



Marine Fisheries Advisory Council
October 2015

Agenda

- **National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy & Implementation Plan**
 - **Recent Progress**
- **On the Horizon**
 - **Regional Implementation Plans**
 - **Artificial Reef Workshop**

It is the policy of NMFS to:

“...foster, support, and enhance a broadly accessible and diverse array of sustainable saltwater recreational fisheries for the benefit and enjoyment of the nation.”

Goals

- 1. Support and maintain sustainable saltwater recreational fisheries resources, including habitats***
- 2. Promote saltwater recreational fishing for the benefit of the nation***
- 3. Enable enduring participation in saltwater recreational fishing through science-based conservation and management***

Implementation Plan & Progress Update

6 Guiding Principles

60+ Commitments over four year time-frame

Guiding Principles

1. Support ecosystem conservation and enhancement

Commitment	Status
Host a workshop to assess the current state of the science, best practices, and potential benefits of artificial reefs.	Initiated
Increase angler engagement in NOAA's National Fish Habitat Partnership and regional Habitat Focus Areas to better reflect recreational fishing priorities.	Underway / ongoing

Implementation Plan Progress

2. Promote public access to quality recreational fishing opportunities

Commitment	Status
Issue final guidance on fishery quota allocation review and analysis in partnership with Council Coordinating Committee	Nearly complete
Collaborate with NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to identify / highlight recreational fishing opportunities in national marine sanctuaries.	Underway / ongoing

Implementation Plan Progress

3. Coordinate with state and federal management entities

Commitment	Status
Establish joint state-federal recreational angler education projects to improve understanding of fishery regulations and the importance of compliance.	No progress
Establish regular dialogue between NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to strengthen relationships, explore partnership opportunities, and identify mutual priorities.	Initiated

Implementation Plan Progress

4. Advance innovative solutions to evolving science, management, and environmental challenges

Commitment	Status
Develop / implement a Bio-economic Length Structured Angler Simulation Tool (BLAST model) to assess effects of management actions on angler participation in West Coast recreational fisheries.	In Development
Produce a science plan of action for discard and release mortality to guide NOAA Fisheries work to improve estimates of mortality and better incorporate improved mortality estimates into stock assessments	In development

Implementation Plan Progress

5. Provide Scientifically Sound and Trusted Social, Cultural, Economic and Ecological Information

Commitment	Status
Initiate a National Research Council review of the Marine Recreational Information Program to evaluate current recreational fisheries catch and effort data and science.	Initiated
Execute a fishing trip expenditure survey in all coastal states to refine understanding of socio-economic impacts of saltwater recreational fishing.	In development

Implementation Plan Progress

6. Communicate and engage with the recreational fishing public

Commitment	Status
Work with state and Council partners to create recreational fishing data communications team in each region to improve stakeholder understanding and access to catch and effort information	Planning Initiated
Increase the amount of content (e.g., feature stories, videos, alerts) relevant to anglers	Initiated

On the Horizon

- **Regional implementation plans (early 2016)**
 - In development
- **Artificial Reef Workshop (mid - 2016)**
 - **ASMFC – NMFS**
- **Detailed Status update (2017)**

The background of the slide features a festive scene with numerous colorful streamers in shades of yellow, pink, blue, and green, and several balloons. One balloon in the lower left is partially visible, showing a red and white pattern. The streamers are tangled and draped across the top and sides of the frame.

**Questions?
Comments?**

Thank you

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